

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on April 25, 2005. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of method claims 28-32, 34, and 46, and the indication that apparatus claims 47 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, claims 47 and 48 are in effect rewritten in independent form, by the amendments to claims 35 and 43. Claims 40, 47, and 48 are cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment, and no new issues are raised thereby. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment in order to place the application into condition for allowance (or into better condition for appeal) is respectfully solicited. With this Amendment, claims 28-32, 34-39, and 41-46 are pending in the application.

Claims 35, 37, 38, 40-43, and 45 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Cash. Claims 36 and 44 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cash. Claim 39 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cash in view of Graziani. Inasmuch as independent claims 35 and 43 have been rewritten to correspond to allowable claims 47 and 48, respectively, this ground of rejection does not apply to any claims presently under consideration.

With the above Remarks and amendments, it is believed that the claims as they now stand define patentable subject matter such that passage to Issue of the instant invention is warranted. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

Application No. 09/889,241
Amendment dated August 24, 2005
After Final Office Action of April 25, 2005

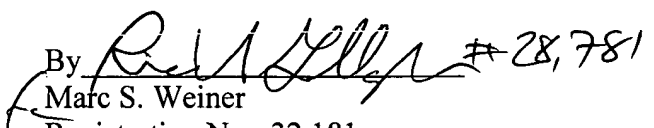
Docket No.: 2282-0142P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

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